

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic mail transmission/reception system for communicating data between an electronic mail creating/sending device and an electronic mail receiving/reproducing device via a network, wherein:

said electronic mail creating/sending device comprises:

an electronic mail creating means creating multimedia data including attached data representing an image, voice/sound, or the like; and

an ID generating means generating an ID corresponding to the attached data such that said electronic mail creating/sending device sends the generated ID instead of the attached data, and

said electronic mail receiving/reproducing device comprises:

a real data generating means generating real data representing an image, voice/sound or the like corresponding to the ID such that said electronic mail receiving/reproducing device reproduces the image, voice/sound or the like represented by the real data.

2. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 1, wherein the ID generating means generates an ID based on a category of attached data.

5

10

15

20

such that the e-mail creating/sending device sends the ID acquired from the server instead of the attached data.

7. The electronic mail transmission/reception
5 system of claim 3, wherein the e-mail creating/sending device has a data/ID acquiring means which, when there is a request for attached data other than attached data corresponding to an ID which can be generated by the ID
10 generating means of the e-mail creating/sending device, acquires such attached data and the ID corresponding to the attached data from the server.

8. The electronic mail transmission/reception
15 system of claim 3, wherein the e-mail receiving/reproducing device has a real data acquiring means which, when the real data generating means of the e-mail receiving/reproducing device fails to generate real data corresponding to an ID, inquires of the server about real data corresponding to the ID to acquire the real data corresponding to the ID from
20 the server such that the e-mail receiving/reproducing device reproduces the real data acquired from the server.

9. The electronic mail transmission/reception
25 system of claim 3, wherein the server sends the attached data, the ID, or another ID belonging to the same category

as the ID to the e-mail receiving/reproducing device depending on ability of the e-mail receiving/reproducing device or at a request thereof.

5 10. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 1, wherein the ID is part of HTML e-mail, and the ID can be identified by tags enclosing the ID at its front and back.

10 11. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 10, wherein the ID is expressed as URL in the HTML e-mail.

15 12. An electronic mail transmission/reception system for communicating data between an electronic mail creating/sending device and an electronic mail receiving/reproducing device via a network, wherein:

said electronic mail creating/sending device comprises:

20 an electronic mail creating means creating multimedia data including attached data representing an image, voice/sound, or the like such that said electronic mail creating/sending device sends the multimedia data, and

5 a server connected to the network comprises an ID generating means generating an ID corresponding to attached data such that the server sends the ID instead of the attached data to said electronic mail receiving/reproducing device.

10 13. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 12, wherein the server connected to the network comprises a real data generating means generating real data representing an image, voice/sound or the like corresponding to the ID such that the server sends the real data instead of the ID to said electronic mail receiving/reproducing device.

15 14. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 12, wherein the real data is identical to the attached data.

20 15. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 13, wherein the real data is data belonging to the same category as the attached data and representing a content approximate to a content of the attached data.

25 16. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 13, wherein the e-mail creating/sending

device further comprises an ID acquiring means which, when its own ID generating means fails to generate an ID corresponding to attached data, inquires of the server about an ID corresponding to the attached data to acquire
5 the ID corresponding to the attached data from the server such that the e-mail creating/sending device sends the ID acquired from the server instead of the attached data.

17. The electronic mail transmission/reception
10 system of claim 13, wherein the e-mail creating/sending device has a data/ID acquiring means which, when there is a request for attached data other than attached data corresponding to an ID which can be generated by the ID generating means of the e-mail creating/sending device,
15 acquires such attached data and the ID corresponding to the attached data from the server.

18. The electronic mail transmission/reception
20 system of claim 12, wherein the e-mail receiving/reproducing device has a real data acquiring means which, when the real data generating means of the e-mail receiving/reproducing device fails to generate real data corresponding to an ID, inquires of the server about real data corresponding to the ID to acquire the real data
25 corresponding to the ID from the server such that the e-

mail receiving/reproducing device reproduces the real data acquired from the server.

19. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 12, wherein the server sends the attached data, the ID, or another ID belonging to the same category as the ID to the e-mail receiving/reproducing device depending on ability of the e-mail receiving/reproducing device or at a request thereof.

20. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 12, wherein the ID is part of HTML e-mail, and the ID can be identified by tags enclosing the ID at its front and back.

21. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 20, wherein the ID is expressed as URL in the HTML e-mail.

22. An electronic mail transmission/reception system for communicating data between an electronic mail creating/sending device and an electronic mail receiving/reproducing device via a network, wherein:

said electronic mail creating/sending device comprises:

an electronic mail creating means
creating multimedia data including attached data
representing an image, voice/sound, or the like; and

an ID generating means generating an ID
5 corresponding to the attached data such that said
electronic mail creating/sending device sends the generated
ID instead of the attached data, and

a server connected to the network comprises:

a real data generating means generating
10 real data representing an image, voice/sound or the like
corresponding to the ID such that the server sends the real
data instead of the ID to said electronic mail
receiving/reproducing device, and

said electronic mail receiving/reproducing
15 device reproduces the image, voice/sound or the like
represented by the real data.

23. The electronic mail transmission/reception
system of claim 22, wherein the real data is identical to
20 the attached data.

24. The electronic mail transmission/reception
system of claim 22, wherein the real data is data belonging
to the same category as the attached data and representing
25 a content approximate to a content of the attached data.

25. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 22, wherein the e-mail creating/sending device further comprises an ID acquiring means which, when
5 its own ID generating means fails to generate an ID corresponding to attached data, inquires of the server about an ID corresponding to the attached data to acquire the ID corresponding to the attached data from the server such that the e-mail creating/sending device sends the ID
10 acquired from the server instead of the attached data.

26. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 22, wherein the e-mail creating/sending device has a data/ID acquiring means which, when there is a
15 request for attached data other than attached data corresponding to an ID which can be generated by the ID generating means of the e-mail creating/sending device, acquires such attached data and the ID corresponding to the attached data from the server.

20

27. The electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 22, wherein the e-mail receiving/reproducing device has a real data acquiring means which, when the real data generating means of the e-
25 mail receiving/reproducing device fails to generate real

data corresponding to an ID, inquires of the server about
real data corresponding to the ID to acquire the real data
corresponding to the ID from the server such that the e-
mail receiving/reproducing device reproduces the real data
5 acquired from the server.

28. The electronic mail transmission/reception
system of claim 22, wherein the server sends the attached
data, the ID, or another ID belonging to the same category
10 as the ID to the e-mail receiving/reproducing device
depending on ability of the e-mail receiving/reproducing
device or at a request thereof.

29. The electronic mail transmission/reception
15 system of claim 22, wherein the ID is part of HTML e-mail,
and the ID can be identified by tags enclosing the ID at
its front and back.

30. The electronic mail transmission/reception
20 system of claim 29, wherein the ID is expressed as URL in
the HTML e-mail.

31. An electronic mail creating/sending device for
sending mail data via a network, comprising :

an electronic mail creating means creating multimedia data including attached data representing an image, voice/sound, or the like; and

an ID generating means generating an ID
5 corresponding to the attached data such that the electronic mail creating/sending device sends the generated ID instead of the attached data.

32. The electronic mail creating/sending device of
10 claim 31, wherein the ID generating means generates an ID based on a category of attached data.

33. The electronic mail creating/sending device of
15 claim 31, further comprising an ID acquiring means which, when said ID generating means fails to generate an ID corresponding to attached data, inquires of a server connected to the network about an ID corresponding to the attached data to acquire the ID corresponding to the attached data from the server such that the e-mail
20 creating/sending device sends the ID acquired from the server instead of the attached data.

34. The electronic mail creating/sending device of
25 claim 31, further comprising a data/ID acquiring means which, when there is a request for attached data other than

attached data corresponding to an ID which can be generated by the ID generating means, acquires such attached data and the ID corresponding to the attached data from a server connected to the network.

5

35. The electronic mail creating/sending device of claim 31, further comprising an ID registering means storing IDs and attached data corresponding to the IDs in categorized manner, and for a new attached data, identifying a category of the data, allocating an ID to the data and registering the data and the ID.

36. An electronic mail receiving/reproducing device for receiving via a network and reproducing multimedia data including an ID corresponding to attached data representing an image, voice/sound, or the like, comprising:

a real data generating means generating real data representing an image, voice/sound or the like corresponding to the ID included in the multimedia data such that said electronic mail receiving/reproducing device reproduces the image, voice/sound or the like represented by the real data.

5 38. The electronic mail receiving/reproducing device of claim 36, wherein the real data is data belonging to the same category as the attached data and representing a content approximate to a content of the attached data.

20 40. The electronic mail receiving/reproducing device of claim 36, further comprising a real data search means which, based on IDs and corresponding real data stored in categorized manner, searches for data belonging to a higher order category of a received ID or

representative data if there is no real data corresponding to the received ID.

41. An electronic mail transmission/reception
5 device for sending and receiving mail data via a network,
comprising:

an electronic mail creating/sending device
including:

an electronic mail creating means
10 creating multimedia data including attached data
representing an image, voice/sound, or the like; and

an ID generating means generating an ID
corresponding to the attached data such that the electronic
mail creating/sending device sends the generated ID instead
15 of the attached data, and

an electronic mail receiving/reproducing device
receiving and reproducing multimedia data including an ID
corresponding to attached data representing an image,
voice/sound, or the like, comprising:

20 a real data generating means generating
real data representing an image, voice/sound or the like
corresponding to an ID included in the multimedia data such
that the electronic mail receiving/reproducing device
reproduces the image, voice/sound or the like represented
25 by the real data.

42. The electronic mail transmission/reception device of 41, comprising:

5 a recognizing means which, upon receiving multimedia data including an ID and attached data corresponding to the ID in a prescribed format, recognizes the ID and the attached data while associating them with each other,

10 said ID generating means being able to generate the ID associated with the attached data recognized by the recognizing means.

43. An Internet access device comprising:

15 a real data generating means for generating real data representing image, voice/sound or the like corresponding to an ID representing attached data representing image, voice/sound or the like included in multimedia data;

20 a real data acquiring means for acquiring real data corresponding to the ID from a specific server or a server designated by a URL when the real data generating means cannot generate the real data corresponding to the ID; and

25 a reproducing means for reproducing the real data.

44. A recording medium containing a program for making computers function as the electronic mail creating means, the ID generating means and the real data generating means of the electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 1.

45. A recording medium containing a program for making computers function as at least the electronic mail creating means and the ID generating means of the electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 12.

46. A recording medium containing a program for making computers function as at least the electronic mail creating means, the ID generating means, the real data generating means of the electronic mail transmission/reception system of claim 22.

47. A recording medium containing a program for making a computer function as at least the electronic mail creating means and the ID generating means of the electronic mail creating/sending device of claim 31.

48. A recording medium containing a program for making a computer function as the real data generating

49. A recording medium containing a program for
5 making a computer function as at least the electronic mail
creating means, the ID generating means, and the real data
generating means of the electronic mail
transmission/reception device of claim 41.

10 50. A recording medium containing a program for
making a computer function as at least the real data
generating means, the real data acquiring means and the
reproducing means of the Internet access device of claim 43.